

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/W THOMAS W.M SMITH

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AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053438

FOLLOWING REPEAT FREETOWN 0674 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ACCRA BAMAKO
BANJUL BISSAU CONAKRY COTONOU DAKAR LAGOS MONROVIA NIAMEY NOUAKCHOTT
OUAGADOUGOU FEB 27.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0674

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIW, PEPR, PORG, XY

SUBJ: ECOWAS SUMMIT CONFERENCE

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH A.S.C. JOHNSON, DEPUTY GOVERNOR,
BANK OF SIERRA LEONE, JOHNSON TOLD EMBOFF THAT ECOWAS HEADS
OF STATE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN LAGOS DURING FIRST OR
SECOND WEEK OF MARCH AT ATTEMPT RESOLVE DISPUTE BETWEEN SEC-
RETARIAT AND FUND. ACCORDING JOHNSON THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL
CONFLICT BETWEEN ECOWAS TREATY'S DEFINITION OF FUND AND
PROTOCOL THAT ESTABLISHED FUND. FORMER MAKES FUND AN ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE ADJUNCT OF SECRETARIAT, WHILE LATTER GIVES FUND
AUTONOMY AND A SEPARATE GOVERNING COUNCIL. THIS CONFLICT,
JOHNSON NOTED, IS EXACERBATED BY PERSONALITY DISPUTE BETWEEN
SECRETARIAT HEAD QUATTARA AND FUND MANAGING DIRECTOR HORTON.

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2. JOHNSON ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO HEAD A
RECENT AUDIT OF THE FUND'S ACTIVITY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CHARGES
OF FISCAL IRREGULARITY MADE AGAINST HORTON. JOHNSON COMMENTED
THAT WHILE THE AUDIT WAS NOT IN DEPTH, HIS TEAM'S REVIEW OF
THE FUND'S BOOKS SATISFIED THEM THAT NEITHER HORTON NOR
THE FUND WAS GUILTY OF FISCAL IMPROPRIETY. THE FUND HAD BEEN
MISMANAGED, HOWEVER; A CONDITION JOHNSON ASCRIBED TO STARTING

UP PAINS. JOHNSON SAID THE SIERRA LEONE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT, SOLOMAN PRATT, WAS PREPARING THE REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND THE EXACT DATE OF THE ECOWAS SUMMIT CONFERENCE WOULD BE DETERMINED WHEN THIS REPORT WAS COMPLETED.
LINEHAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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